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California GARDEN

TORREY PINES
SAN DIEGO

December 1933

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by Clifford G. Tanner

Plant Collecting
An Aid to Conservation
by Lester Rowntree

Garden Adventures
by Clarence C. White

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The Editor's Column

Featured in the December issue is one of the soundest articles on rose culture that it has been our pleasure to read. Singularly free from extraneous comment, the article fully justifies its title, "Essentials of Rose Culture." The author, Clifford G. Tanner, of Rancho Santa Fe, has amply displayed the soundness of what he recommends by the results obtained in rose gardens which he has planted and supervised, particularly in the Rancho Santa Fe locality. Mr. Tanner's enthusiastic reports of rose success at Rancho Santa Fe has frequently in the experience of the writer been met with open skepticism on the part of experienced rosarians. Hower, all who investigated Tanner's claims, to our knowledge, have come away with glowing terms of praise for the unexcelled vigor and cultural perfection of the rose gardens visited.

Mr. Clarence G. White of Redlands is one of those restless gardeners who to a great extent are responsible for the real progress that is made in ornamental horticulture. Apparently, new and rare plants arouse an insatiable curiosity within him that he cannot deny. Nor is this curiosity appeased merely by owning them, he must try every conceivable cultural method to bring out the best possible results with them. Mr. White happily realizes that the cultural do and don'ts of many of our most common garden subjects need revamping. The title of his article, "Garden Adventures," aptly describe his garden experiences.

The Annual Cyclamen Card Party

Each year this season brings one of the most pleasant social events on the calendar of the Floral Association. A large card party was held on December 7 as a benefit and a crowd attended. As is customary each table was presented with a pot of beautiful cyclamen from the Westegard Nursery, as a prize. Mrs. Mary A. Greer was assisted by the house committee, who served delicious refreshments.

C. B. T.

December Meeting of the Floral Association

The December meeting of the San Diego Floral Association was held Tuesday evening in the club rooms in Balboa Park, Dec. 19. Roland S. Hoyt, famous landscape architect, was the speaker and his subject was "The Planning of Small Gardens." As usual the holiday spirit prevailed and a program of Christmas carols by a group of Girl Scouts was enjoyed. A living Christmas tree provided tiny potted plants for each member of the association and cakes and coffee was served by the house committee.

C. B. T.

December Weather

DEAN BLAKE, Weather Bureau

Seventy-three percent of the seasonal precipitation in San Diego falls in December, January, February and March. Rain before and after these months is not dependable and is haphazard in its occurence. Even when the total seasonal has amounted to less than five inches, one of the four months has shown a fall near the average.

Winter is the stormy period over southern California as it is over the rest of our country, so the precipitation is usually accompanied by strong southerly winds which veer to westerly upon clearing. Gales are unknown, however, and such phenomena as sleet, ice storms and snow never occur except in the mountains and intermediate elevations.

December rains, like those of every other month, are extremely variable. It is impossible to predict whether the total will reach ten inches, or whether none will fall. Normally, there are 6 days with measurable amounts, but there have been years when 19 days were recorded.

During the last decade, the coldest weather of the year is apt to descend upon the county. Frost protection begins in the citrus and avocado districts, where temperatures below 32° may be expected quite often, yet there are many consecutive days with mild, dry, cloudless weather with the thermometer going to 70° or even higher.

When the strong easterly winds, so characteristic of November, persist into December, the fire hazard is acute, and there have been occasions when it was Christmastide before relief was obtained.

Because of the large percentage of sunshine, the low humidity and the many days of mild temperature, December usually ivites us out-of-doors, and the month on the whole is full of zest with enough variation to act as a stimulant.

November Meeting

To most of us Iceland has always been a spot on the map up in the northeast corner, but after hearing Dr. Anita Muhl at the November meeting of the Floral Association in Balboa park, we have been reading everything offered by encyclopedias and other books about this land of sagas, super-intelligent peoples, cold, windy, treeless country to add to the wonderful story of flowers brought by Dr. Muhl. Through the magic of her voice we saw fields carpeted with every color of wild flower. We peered over rough crags and saw the rough crevices festooned with dainty blossoms reflected in the still waters far below. We saw violets with stems a foot in length and pansies as large as teacups. For three months of the year we waded knee deep in luxurious green grass and saw the herd of sheep and the tiny Iceland ponies which thrive on it. But most interesting was her story of the way the Icelanders are using their lava rocks for gardens. The cracks and holes offer a fine home for many kinds of succulents including lovely Alpines which we Californians can only dream about. She told of how hot steam has been piped from the many living geysers through the ground so as to warm it enough to make the cultivation of flowers possible. Dr. Muhl had a list of the garden flowers that we are all familiar with and told of how well they grow under those conditions.

The steam is also piped into greenhouses so that it is possible to have perfect roses, sweetpeas, carnations and other flowers all of the year 'round. Such programs are the secret of the Floral Association's charm, and to add to the enjoyment was the concise Iris chat by Commander John Monroe of Chula Vista, who gave some fine advice on how to exhibit Iris. Kate O. Sessions as always displayed some interesting specimen plants brought in from her Pacific Beach home. A spray of double peach blossoms from a tree full of bloom seemed rather surprising for November. Mrs. Mary A. Greer was back in the chair of president again and presided with her usual grace. She announced the card party to be given December 8.

C. B. T.

Clinging Vines

By K. O. SESSIONS

. . . *A Selected List of the Best Varieties*

The clinging vines used in garden work are the two Ampelopsis-Veitchii and radicans — both deciduous and both turning to vivid colors in the late fall. The Veitchii is commonly called the Boston Ivy and is a native of Japan. Ficus repens and minima are evergreens. The latter has smaller foliage and its slower growth is an advantage, for they are of long life and make a large growth. Bignonia Tweediana, a tall grwer, is evergreen, and in April is full of yellow flowers for three weeks. Bignonia Chamberlaynii is the new clinging vine and is as yet rare here, but it promises well. It is similar to Tweediana, clinging in the same way with little three-parted claws, but its foliage is larger, a finer dark green and its growth is very abundant and rapid. Its blossoms are also yellow, and flowers continue during the summer months. It is the one very conspicuous flowering vine in Honolulu, and there is quite a sheet of yellow as it spreads over the surfaces of a shed or roof.

The common English Ivy and the Irish Ivy with a small leaf, a white variegated form, are all strong and rapid growers. There are several types of English Ivy that should be better known for their fine foliage. Conspicuous examples of each clinging vine are easily recognized and their habits should be more carefully studied.

The Boston Ivy with its fine autumn foliage is best growing on the north or eastern side of a building and never on the south side. On a west retaining wall on First Street above Walnut one vine has grown over the wall and downward on its face — spread across the front steps, a distance of 150 feet. The stems are two inches in diameter and are not obtrusive. The large cupolas of the Presbyterian Congregational and Methodist churches in the city are beautifully decorated with the Bignonia Tweediana and their uniformity over the four parapets of each cupola makes one believe that the vines can really see and know where and how they wish to grow. The Ficus repens is common and conspicuous on the Russ High School building. The common English Ivy on many chimneys and retaining walls should also be used as a ground cover beneath trees. The front wall at Mr. Henry Lippet's, Hortensia Street, Mission Hills, is an example of good use and good care. The south wall of the Chas. Douglass residence at Second and Redwood has the Ficus minima. All these clinging vines are generally planted too thickly on the walls of the house. One vine only on a side and not more than two sides of a dwelling. The chimney in particular is the best location. They all need a very severe pruning annually. The two deciduous sorts should be cut back when dormant and every trailing branch cut off entirely. Also keep many of the clinging branches thinned out. With the ficus varieties every branch that does not cling should be cut off, and many branches thinned out, and as the plant gets older a yearly shaving of the little branches is a real necessity.

The English Ivy in this climate should never be used on the walls of a house. It grows too coarse and woody—on a wire fence and on retaining walls it is exceptionally fine, for in those places it can be kept well cut back. Its use as a ground cover is very superior and at the Geo. Marston residence a bank beneath the Eucalyptus trees is a splendid example of its use. Also in Balboa Park on Sixth Street opposite Fir Street on a steep slope it is better than grass. The main stems of Bignonia Tweediana when old become coarse and woody if yearly trimming is seriously neglected. The only plant of Bignonia Chamberlaynii, thre years old, is at my Nursery at Pacific Beach. I brought it from Honolulu in 1926. A better variety of the English Ivy is conspicuous at the northeast corner of the pastorage of the Episcopal church in La Jolla. It is on a trellis and is kept quite well pruned, though it is reaching up to and over a roof. Its color and shape of leaf is very fine and it should be generally planted.

The Essentials of Rose Culture

By CLIFFORD G. TANNER

. . . A Timely Guide to Successful Rose Growing

Rose culture is becoming more popular as we learn better methods of handling our plants. We no longer need to think of our rose garden as an unsightly object if we will give it a little systematic care throughout the season.

Location

The winter months remind us that bare root season is at hand, which is the best time of the year to start a large rose garden or to work over your old rose garden. In preparing your rose bed keep in mind that the location is very important. Roses must have protection from the winds and they do like protection from the hot sun; but they can not stand competition from gross feeding trees such as the eucalyptus. Plant roses close together in beds, so that they will give each other protection.

Soil

Roses like to grow in a heavy soil, but it must be well drained. Lighter soil can be built up with humus, so that it will retain moisture, for roses need an abundance of water in the upper root system.

Planting

In planting roses care should be taken to use only clean top soil, preferably a fine loam in the hole immediately around the roots of the plants, so that all air pockets can be eliminated and so that the injured roots can heal over in a clean medium. The root system should not be buried over four or five inches deep.

Water

It is not important which method of watering is practised — overhead sprinkling or ground watering—but it is necessary that the ground be thoroughly saturated over the entire area where the roses are growing. There is less disturbance of the roots by sprinkling.

Pest and disease control is best accomplished by a systematic application of 300 mesh sulphur combined with some arsenical poison as arsenate of lead or with Dutox, barium fluosilicate, at the rate of nine parts of sulphur to one part of poison dust. There are several prepared rose dusts which are very efficient. This dusting should be done once a week throughout the season, with as light an application as possible in getting complete coverage. Aphis control is accomplished by means of some of the contact poisons, such as nico-dust. Dusting should be done while the air is quiet, but after the heavy dew is off the plants. Liquid lime-sulphur is the preferred dormant winter spray following the winter pruning.

Foliage

We are learning the importance of foliage on plants, in fact there are several varieties that die back if foliage is not preserved. In cutting your roses be careful to cut so that some foliage is left on the stem to keep up circulation. It is a good plan not to cut any of the first two crops of roses on new plants except with a very short stem. Build a sizeable body to your plant before cutting long-stemmed roses.

Do Not Dig in the Rose Garden

Contrary to the old method of digging constantly around your rose bushes we are finding that by keeping the soil packed and by feeding by means of a manure mulch, with commercial fertilizers added from time to time, we are better able to keep the plants in a thrifty growing condition. Stirring of the soil disturbs the roots whch in turn checks the growth of the plants.

Pruning

Winter pruning does not mean that we should cut the plants down within six inches of the ground as we have been told in many books. Pruning should be done just before new growth starts, which is generally about the first of February and it consists in a general shaping up of the plant, the first year after planting, leaving the bushes about two feet high. On older plants it is a process of building up the plant from new growth each year. A new framework should be built as often as possible, as the best roses come on the young, thrifty branches. All heavy cuts should be covered with some form of tree paint to prevent decay and entry of borers.

Fertilizer

A heavy application of fresh cow manure over the entire surface of the rose bed should be made after winter pruning and spraying.

The Gingers

By J. W. Elliott

THE gingers (zingiher) are well worth a place in the gardens of Southern California. They are vigorous growers of the easiest culture, with foliage resembling that of the Canna.

The only variety that has flowered in my garden has twelve-inch spikes of pale yellow flowers that are extremely distinct, striking and beautiful. It flowers in August and each shoot produces a flower. This variety, which I obtained in Honolulu a few years ago, is now a clump eight feet across and six feet high, although I have given a few plants every winter.

It is easily propagated by dividing the roots when the plant is dormant in the winter time.

Bailey lists six varieties, all of which can be obtained from Ellen Williams of Honolulu.

Medicinal ginger is prepared from the dried roots; condimental ginger from the green. Candied ginger is made from carefully selected, succulent young rhizomes which are washed and peeled and then preserved in jars of syrup.

Housewives often preserve their own ginger, which is washed and peeled and then preserved in jars of syrup. It is important, however, to have the hands protected while scraping the roots or they will "burn" for days.

Ginger probably could be cultivated commercially in Southern California.

Thanksgiving Rose Show

By CORALINN TUTTLE

. . .List of Awards

THE QUEEN of the garden, the rose, usually is in the heighth of her glory in June, but the San Diego Rose Society proves each fall that a Thanksgiving rose show is just another one of the miracles of San Diego climate.

The president of the society, Forrest Hieatt, and his able committee staged the display in the club rooms of the Floral Association in Balboa Park. Under the direction of Walter Merrill the floor plan suggested a formal rose garden with tables of specimen roses forming a hedge background for the many round dining tables with their rose center decorations. Large tubs of Totem Pole roses from the Tanner Nursery added to the garden effect and the arrangements in the shadow boxes showed a new venture into artistic arrangement of roses that offers great possibilities for the future. Outstanding roses on display were the local productions by Forrest Hieatt. A rose of sunset hues if proved reliable will probably be christened San Diego. It took first prize in the Seedling Rose class. His lovely yellow Mrs. Dupont took first ribbon for the New Rose in Commerce. Well known and universal favorites lifting their heads high were President Hoover, Golden Emblem, Claudius Pernet, Etoile de Holland, Dainty Bess and the lovely creamy Mermaid. Of course the old reliables like Talisman, Los Angeles, Frau Karl Druski and Hadley were there in profusion. Mrs. Fred Scripps brought in a basket of roses of many varieties after the show had opened and was awarded a special ribbon. The committee members were gracious to all inquirers for information on rose culture and served tea each afternoon to the thousands of visitors. No admission fee was asked but contributions were generous and helped defray the expense of staging the show. The American Rose Society silver medal was awarded to George Beech for the best rose in the show and the bronze medal to him for the most points in the quality classes. Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Lane were awarded the American Rose Society bronze medal for sweepstakes in the classes for arrangement.

Ribbons were awarded as prizes in the following classes: Best six varieties: first, George Beech. Six white blooms: first, Mountain Meadow Creamery, second, George Beech; third, Mrs. F. K. Wood. Six red blooms: first, George Beech; second, Mt. Meadow Creamery. Six pink blooms: first, Geo. Beech. Six pink shaded blooms: first, George Beech. Six yellow blooms: first, R. G. Atkinson; second, George Beech. Six yellow-shaded blooms: first, Mrs. H. A. Thompson; second, Dr. Carl Bertschinger; third, George Beech. Six flame colored blooms: first, C. H. Hoxel; second, Mountain Meadow Creamery. Three white blooms: first, Mrs. Bert Dockstader; second, George Beech. Three red blooms: first, M. E. Harrison; second, Mountain Meadow Creamery; third, R. G. Atkinson.

Three pink blooms: first, Mrs. G. H. Williams; second, Dr. Carl Bertschinger; third, Dr. Carl Bertschinger. Three pink-shaded: first, George Beech. Three yellow: first, George Beech; second, R. G. Atkinson; third, Dr. Carl Bertschinger. Three yellow-shaded: first, George Beech; second, Dr. Carl Bertschinger; third, C. H. Hoxel. Three flame-colored: first, C. H. Hoxel. One white: first, A. L. Anderson; second, George Beech; third, Mrs. F. K. Wood.

One red: first, Mrs. Frank St. Sure; second, Mountain Meadow Creamery; third, C. M. Hosmer. One pink: first, George Beech; second, M. E. Harrison; honorable mention, Mrs. Frank Haydon, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ogden, Mountain Meadow Creamery. One pink-shaded: first, George Beech; second, George Beech. One yellow: first, Charles W. Ritz; second, Mrs. George H. Williams; third, George Beech.

One yellow-shaded: first, Mrs. J. J. Flint; second, M. E. Harrison; honorable mention, Mrs. C. M. Hosmer, M. E. Harrison. One flame-colored: first, Forrest Hieatt; second. Mrs. Frank St. Sure; third, George Beech.

Polyanthus roses: honorable mention, Mrs. W. H. Wilson, R. G. Atkinson. New rose in commerce (Mrs. Dupont): first, Forrest Hieatt. Seedling rose: first, Forrest Hieatt. Nursery display: first, Kate Sessions. Basket of roses (one variety): Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Lane. Vase or jar: first, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ogden. Bowl or dish (one variety): first, Miss Lydia Schwieder, R. G. Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Lane. Basket of roses (more than one variety): first, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Lane. Vase or jar (more than one variety): first, Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Lane; second, Mrs. Frank St. Sure. Display of rose hips: Forrest Hieatt. Dining table decoration: first, Mrs. Charles W. Ritz; second, Mrs. G. H. Williams; third, C. M. Hosmer, Shadow box arrangements: first, Miss Eleanor Carroll; second, Miss Lydia Schwieder; honorable mention, C. M. Hosmer, Forrest Hieatt.

Dombeya

By Bertha M. Thomas

We have a Dombeya in our yard, and it is now a gorgeous mass of those indescribable big pink balls. Nothing else resembles them—they are always twins, and occasionally one twin blooms ahead of the other, but usually they come together. The leaves are large and do their best to hide and protect their children, for the least little touch of frost turns them brown, even a little moisture will do the same. But this year I cheated nature by stripping about 4-5ths of the big leaves and the flowers can now be seen. They are short-lived and I pick off the old brown ones every two or three days. It is in good bloom only about six weeks, but nothing on earth can excel their beauty and daintiness, and I firmly believe the Lord made a Dombeya blossom to show what He *could* do. Your orchid is gorgeous—thrilling—of a few hours of life. The rose is sweet and many-hued. Poinsettias are magnificent, grand, whichever color you are looking upon—white, pink, double red, or our glorious single ones—each one is best. Violets are sweet and lovable, water lilies adorable, but those large drooping balls of the Dombeya are so strikingly appealingly dainty, I feel I am looking at something new from the Creator's hand. And nearly every passer-by stops and gazes with admiration.

Garden Adventures

(Continued from November Issue)

By CLARENCE G. WHITE

. . .Being the Knowledge Acquired by Trial and Error

"Go, get a reputation—instead of ballahooing." What will now happen to my roses, who can say? Dame Nature has laughed a lot at us at Whitehill and will doubtless continue to do it; but for the moment we can grow good roses.

How fearful of doing the wrong thing, the pruning adventure began; and how poorly the preliminary instruction could be applied until a background of experience had been attained. This statement does, I believe, apply to most knowledge obtained exclusively from books and meditation, and is the germ of my distrust that detachment can produce true judgment except by chance. The cards of life seems to be stacked against a "brain trust."

There might be a rose gardener in Southern California who would never need to do major pruning; one who disbudded reasonably, cut all blooms to a proper length of stem, and snipped off superfluities and disease, here and there, as he saw them, while collecting blooms. A rose bush so treated would have no set-back from any great mutilation, should bloom less in periods of grand bursts followed by almost no flowers, but with more regularity and with better results—this is indeed a dream of perfection. In reality, few of us can spare the time for such a program of work. When cutting blooms, it is a rush to get them into water at the earliest possible moment before the air penetrates the stems and the sun gets to work on them. But the years have convinced me, that to prune once, or even twice a year only, is a mistake. There should be, shall we say, preventative pruning at all times. At Whitehill, when a large branch has done blooming for the nonce, if in the twiggy growth at the end of it there is no stem of sufficient size to carry a proper bloom, there is a good fat eye just below the bushiness to prune to, and this cut is the best possible one to make. But, if there is delay, all the eyes on the main branch start twigs or get smothered, so no really advantageous cut can be made anywhere, and a small inadequate twig at the top is the only choice left. What is termed light pruning in the rose manuals, is severe enough on the bush, goodness knows; and is a great sufficiency unless the best possible exhibition-blooms are desired at the expense of the bush itself. Probably the vogue of severe pruning in the east is more the result of killing winters than any other cause. Big bushes are desirable in every way, except where small ones are wanted.

There is a considerable difference between the sort of bearded iris Whithill started with, and what is there now. Quite a few of the present ones are—shall we say—native sons? Two charmers, originating on the place, will be introduced by an iris broker next spring. And there is a great difference otherwise. During those first years, iris interest went stale so often, that it took semi-weekly visits to Stillman Berry to keep up the enthusiasm. He has always been willing to share his own joy of the garden with others—and still does. Now the attention is self-keen at Whitehill. Trying to grow the difficult oncocyclus iris from Asia Minor, aliens which resent living in America, even in Southern California itself, and striving to embody their characteristics in the hardy bearded iris by breeding, is thrill and difficulty enough to absorb several life-times. Work of this sort is a job for the amateur, it is not relatively important enough for subsidization, nor by any possible juggling of figures can it be made to show even a book-profit in finance. The reward comes in increasing satisfaction, aspirations, horizons—and wonder. The future-flung interest, the hope and desire yet ahead (perhaps never to be objectively grasped), minister to that fighting force which makes a man unwilling to lie down and die when the night of his personal glooms is upon him. Some 1,400 flowers were pollinated in one season of this work. Of these, perhaps ten per cent set seeds, and from these there came only two or three hundred plants. Many of these plants have rotted, some fifty may bloom, a few of the few that have flowered are worth keeping, at least for a while.

Of five hundred pollinations of that spectacular hybrid, William Mohr, five seeds resulted. Two germinated, one died. Only three or four other seedlings of this plant have ever been produced by anybody. My one may be the first to bloom, or may not. What an adventure in perseverance and curiosity if nothing more. The very first seedling iris I raised, had a lovely delicate blending of color not hitherto seen in the regelio-cyclus group. Another seedling had a flower that seemed akin to a piece of lovely calico that might have come from Grandmother's gown—a most promising innovation in iris novelties. Neither endured but for a season. In the oncocyclus iris are potential colors and characteristics as yet not found in the bearded iris. My hunch is that the true reds, pinks and blues are coming eventually by oncocyclus matings.

There are two adventures incubating at Whitehill. A few pineapple tops have been planted under screening, and the ground is to be kept warm with electricity during the cold winter. These tops should produce fruit in three years, at latest, fruit of a far better quality than the stores sell.

A few cypripedrums, and cymbidiums have also been put in a screened enclosure. These terrestrial orchids will grow out of doors in some places near the coast. What they will do here is to be seen. Some of them come originally from the mountain state of Nepal, India, and may stand our cold. As they generally bloom in December, they are much to be desired on that account, as well as for their curious shapes, and coloring, and the long period that the bloom endures, sometimes six weeks. There are said to be 150 orchids, native to Canada and the U. S. — a surprising number.

Miss Arnold came into the garden the other day. When she saw the screened orchids and pineapple plants, the dogwoods, and such other petted and cajoled vegetation, she said she was disappointed in me. Here she had been using me for years as an example in simple gardening; quoting me as

(Continued on Page 6)

San Diego Conditions Favor Fuchsias

By BERTHA M. THOMAS

All officers and members of the American Fuchsia Society received this notice: "Sunday, 2:30 P. M., Dec. 10, Dr. F. B. Davis will exhibit his Fuchsia Paintings. Discussion of White Coralla kinds. Calif. Academy of Science."

Dr. Davis is one of our Directors and the White Coralla kinds are of intense interest to Fuchsia enthusiasts. But Berkeley is some distance and the Flu had me, although I am positive I now appreciate the feelings of the boy sick with measles and the circus in town. The White Corallas kinds are numerous and open to much discussion—Emile Laurent, Diamant, Storm King, Mrs. E. G. Hill, Monstrora, Sylvia, White Phenomenal, Gloria de Marchii, Flocon de Neige, Josephine Frankenfield, Carmencita, Mrs. Cornelissen—are some of them. I have had many of them and Storm King still holds its own on many counts. A new English importation, Rolla, is quite a favorite now, and its points are about 100. More kinds coming all the time—no end in sight for White Corallas, nor any other color.

The Berkeley section has us beaten in membership numbers but not in blooming season. Today, December 14th, I conted mine in bloom as follows: Arabella, Pink Pearl, Aurora Borealis, Marvel, Henry Henkle, Rolla, Mauve Beauty, Exmouth, Storm King, Irwin Giant, Avalanche, Exeter, Phenomenal, Pendiculata, Marinka, Fulgens, Starlight, Monstrosa, Purnilla, Carnea, Duchess of Albany, London, Dr. Brooks, Le Robusta, Monarch, Rose of Castile, Corrienne, Lycioides, Abbe Fargus, Elysee, and two others from which tags were lost.

If any other city can beat San Diego in December for Fuchsia blooms, let them holler.

One variety (nameless) but now in bloom, I found in Santa Cruz three years ago, and Mr. Robinson has named it Thomasina in my honor, although I suspect I will have to relinquish the honor some day to some other claimant from Society's headquarters. Prunilla has a few straggling blooms, but the beauty of the bush today is its little black seed pods. The plant is one mass of them and their contrast, nestled in with the little dark green leaves is beautiful. Pink Pearl is also well covered with large seed pods mixed in with the bloom. Some Fuchsias are now partially dormant, enough so they may be pruned. And do not be stingy with the pruning. A cold-hearted ruthlessness while at the job will be a favor to the plants, and the more bare you leave the stalks the more beautiful they will be next spring and summer. You can safely reset one now if you wish, but a Fuchsia always resents the soil being removed from its roots even in the dormant season. The number of Fuchsias is increasing by leaps and bounds—big and little, gorgeous and dainty, climbing and tree-like. We are hoping that we may soon have more Society meetings here in Southern California, and perhaps some shows. But remember, Fuchsias are like babies, i. e. you must love them and keep their feet warm (with water and fertilizer) if you wish them to show you their full beauty. They require more care than even Begonias if you wish best results.

Our American Fuchsia society organized four years ago now has several members from all sections and the interest is increasing every year. Headquarters are at Berkeley.

The Rock Garden

Many have been the books on rock gardens. Many more will follow. And goodness knows we need them if the amateur gardener is going to become as familiar with rock gardening as he is with the delphinium-petunia-alyssum type of garden.

As the interest in rock gardening grows, the more adjustments of this phase there must be. Climates differ and exposures require proper adaptations. If the plant material is appropriately selected it will vary as widely as the climatic conditions. The fundamental type of rock garden can no longer lay sole claim to the title.

But no matter what the type, there are certain tenets of construction which must be observed. The rocks *must* be half or three-quarters covered, they *must* be tipped backward, the crevices around them *must* be packed with earth.

These important rules of rock gardening are pleasantly put in Louise Beebe Wilder's "The Rock Garden" (Double, Doran, $1.50). Mrs. Wilder is a seasoned authority, writing from many years experience in this fascinating line of plant work. If you are contemplating entering the lists you can look to no better authority in America. Rock gardening was young in America when, many years ago, I visited her first rock garden in the East.

"The Rock Garden" is a reprint of that section in Mrs. Wilder's larger (and more expensive) book, "Adventures in My Garden and Rock Garden." It covers all the many angles of rock gardening and gives much else that is satisfying. I am glad for instance that the author allots a whole chapter to the Erodiums and species geraniums (so often confused in name with the zonal geraniums of the garden), that she has threshed out that much discussed topic of annuals in the rock garden, and that she has given those all important necessities of garden books—lists of plants for special places.

LESTER ROWNTREE,
Carmel, California.

Garden Adventures

(Concluded from Page 5)

saying there were so many beautiful things easy to grow—why reach out after the difficult and troublesome, which were generally no more beautiful than the others, but only more rarely found. I had no ready answer for her, but I wondered whether I would still be gardening, if the aptitude that made a flower lover out of a commercial spud-raiser had not become active. Without the human urge to go forward on a chance, and the racial will to control environment, the garden path would soon have led into a blind wall. Yesterday's needs of the garden spirit are not tomorrow's.

Plant Collecting

By LESTER ROWNTREE

. . . An Aid to Conservation

CONSERVATION must not stop at preventing a plant from being destroyed in situ. A plant's native heath, these days, has a way of disappearing from beneath it. It becomes, without warning, a very unnative heath:—a new road; a real estate development; a field of hay or vegetables. Conservation, in its broadest sense, means also seeing to it that the desirable species exposed to extermination are perpetuated, or at least given a chance to carry on, in some other place.

If you have no local wild flower refuge (all too few of us have) turn a corner of your own grounds into a sub-refuge, even though it is on a small scale. But unless the job is done with the care rightfully due to the plant, it had better not be done at all. Do not make a rare species the victim of ignorance or thoughtlessness.

Arm yourself with the proper permits and sally forth. Take with you containers, a sharp tool long enough to go deep into the ground, a large canteen of water, newspapers and gunny sacking. Move the plant during its rest period if possible, taking with it as much soil as the container will hold. (This rest period usually follows the blooming and seeding time and precedes the autumn rains.) Remember that most of our native plants have tap roots. This means successful moving of only very young plants and deep digging even then.

Water the plant as soon as it is placed in the container and keep it from drying out. It will think the autumn rains have come and will bestir itself to the business of becoming established. Keep it in this can or pot during its time of adjustment. This period varies with the plant. Keep it in the shade for some time. Try to get the "feel" of it and to anticipate its needs.

There is a saying that the cure grows near the disease; grindelia is supposed to be flourishing at hand when you brush against poison oak (it isn't, though); the antidote for a rattlesnake is close by the rattler if you would only calm yourself and look around for it (would that it were!) But I have found that the axiom is truer of collecting than of these fell mishaps. For in case you find a plant fit for the refuge and ready to dig and are without a container—there is *always* a tin can (usually a nest of them) close at hand. The tramp's gesture toward first aid.

Sometimes it is wisest to take cuttings. This is usually safe if you are near home or can get sand to strike them on the spot. Rooted cuttings such as are found on some of the prostrate manzanitas and wild lilacs are usually pretty sure to grow, and they leave the parent plant intact.

Do not attempt to take a plant unless you feel pretty sure that you can duplicate its conditions well enough to give it a fair chance of success. Take notes of its exposure, soil and associated plants, and compare them with the permanent home you have in mind for it. This helps a lot. It is decidedly not conservation to dig a young parosela on the desert and plant it in the shade of your house, or to uproot a mariposa from its chosen adobe and make it try to carry on in sand, or to stick a shelter-loving tan-bark oak in the teeth of a strong wind. Haphazard transplanting can never qualify as conservation work.

But let's get back to our plant, in its tin or pot, well watered. You are planning its permanent home. As soon as it accepts its moving and settles down to make the best of it, you can put it in its permanent location *if* this is within reach of the hose. Otherwise, you'd better wait until your plant has done some growing. If the rains have thoroughly soaked the place it is to inhabit and if you can provide water during the dry times between rains, put the plant into its place without too much delay. You can tell by the look of healthy acceptance which a plant that is ready to move, assumes.

A young transplanted plant usually has to be helped through the first summer following its move. One summer's watering is often enough to set it on its feet. After that your biggest responsibilities are to see that it is protected from crowding by neighbor plants and that it has an occasional pruning. If it is the right plant for the right place and if your work has been intelligently done, you will crow with delight.

DONATIONS TO THE AGAVE AND ALOE GARDEN

Late donations to the Agave and Aloe garden in Balboa Park, San Diego have been made by the following:

Mr. Chas. Cass—
12 cuttings of a rare and everblooming Mesembryanthemum.
1 Manfreda Masculosa gigantea.
2 Dwarf Agave from Texas.

By Mrs. Mary Greer—
6 Aloe Distans.
1 Aloe Seedling Sp.?
1 Agave lophantha.
3 Pitcairnia Sp.?

By Miss Josephine Yoch of Encinitas—
4 Seedling Aloes.
1 Agave—common name, "Shark's Tooth."
1 Varigated Agave—rosy stripes and very attractive.

By the Huntington Botanic Garden—
1 Puya Thomasiana.

By K. O. Sessions—
1 Pitcairnia consimils.
Seed of Mesembryanthemum creniflorum—a brilliant and desirable annual.

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How to Show Iris

By CORALINN TUTTLE

. . . Hints for Iris Exhibitors in the Spring Show

It is none to early to begin to plan on what you will probably have to enter in the spring show, so tuck some of the following suggestions away in your minds and be ready for the best Iris exhibit ever.

First be sure that you know your plants by their first names and look in the catalogues of reliable growers for the color classifications. Decide whether you will be able to show single specimens or collections and be ready to choose only one specimen stalk to put in any one class. Look over your vases and bowls and determine which is which. A good rule is that a vase measures in height more than its greatest diameter, otherwise it is classed as a dish or bowl. The American Iris Society recommends that no exhibitor should receive more than one premium in each class, therefore be ready to choose only the very finest quality of specimen stalks and help the show committee present a show of high standard by making only one entry of high quality in a class. We have added more classes to cover a larger color group so that if one has an excellent San Francisco which is classed as a medium plicata and an excellent Los Angeles which is a light plicata there will be opportunity for display of both. We have also arranged that larger growers can exhibit in Group 2 where they will not overwhelm the novice who can enter in Group 3 and compete for the membership to the American Iris Society as first prize. The A I S urges that one follow certain standards of excellence and so we are ruling this year that no inferior blooms will be judged. Be sure your specimens are healthy, fresh and rightly named.

San Diego climate does not treat some varieties of Iris kindly and with the assistance of an experienced grower in this section, John Monroe of Chula Vista, we are giving a list of Iris that have shown good response, not for one or two seasons, but for several years. White Iris, Kashmir White, Purissima and Shasta, Plicatas, Los Angeles, San Francisco and True Delight are superior types but Madame Cherou and Parisienne are still good old reliables. Pink Lavender finds San Gabriel leading with Frieda Mohr and Rosado easy to grow. Blue Lavender includes Santa Barbara, Sierra Blue, Ballerine, Corrida, Canyon Mists, Sir Michael, Avalon and Balboa. Red Purples almost dark blends are Mauna Loa, Indian Chief, Mrs. Valery West. Lent Williamson, and Glowing Embers. Reliable blue purples are San Diego and Madame Gaudichaud. Yellows that do fairly well are Primavera, Soledad and Bonita. Light blends are Madame Rurrand, Asia, Sir Galahad and Sindjka. Alcazar and occasionally Ambassador are sure growers also.

We are stressing the culture of more beardless Iris and promise an interesting exhibit of new varieties in the spring show. The writer experimented two years ago with a clump of San Gabriel in a bucket and so successful was the venture that it is hoped that there will be some bowls of blooming Iris plants on display.

Trophies for the show will be the bronze medal from the A. I. S. for sweepstakes, the A. I. S. membership and subscription to their magazine for the highest number of awards in Group III which is only for novice exhibitors. Carl Salbach, noted Iris grower of Berkeley has donated orders for one rhizome of Shasta, Purissima and San Diego for trophies in the classes for arrangement and several oher growers will also contribute rare bulbs.

The revised premium list for the spring show will be as follows:

SECTION B—IRIS

Group One Open Class

Collection of 20 Bearded Iris. Points 20-10-5.

Collection of 10 Bearded Iris. Points 10-5-2.

Collection of 5 Bearded Iris. Points 5-3-1.

Collection of Beardless Iris. (Not less than 5). 5-3-1.

Collection of Bulbous Iris (Dutch, Spanish or English) not less than 5. 5-3-1.

Basket of Beardless Iris. Points 5-3-1 for Arrangements.

Vase of Beardless Iris.

Bowl of Beardless Iris.

Vase of Bulbous Iris.

Basket of Bearded Iris.

Vase of Bearded Iris.

Bowl of Bearded Iris.

SPECIMEN STALKS. Points 5-3-1

White.
a, White Bi Color.
Pink Lavender.
Blue Lavender.
a, Blue Lavender bi-color.
Red Purple.
a, Red Purple bi-color.
Blue Purple.
a, Blue Purple bi-color.
Blends.
a, Light Blend.
b, Dark Blend.
Yellow.
a, Yellow bi-color.
Garden Exhibit 5x8.

GROUP II

Collection of 50 distinct varieties. Points 40-20-10.

Collection of 25 distinct varieties. Points 20-10-5.

Collection of 12 distinct varieties, 3 stalks each. 10-5-3.

Collection of 6 distinct varieties, 3 stalks each. 5-3-1.

GROUP III

(Not open to Exhibitors in Group II)

Collection of 10 distinct varieties, 1 stalk each. 10-5-3.

Collection of 5 distinct varieties, 3 stalks each. 5-3-1.

Collection from garden containing not more than 25 varieties. Points 6-3-1.

Collection from exhibitor who has not exhibited Iris in the San Diego Floral Association show before. Points 6-3-1.

Collection of not less than five beardless Iris. 5-3-1.

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